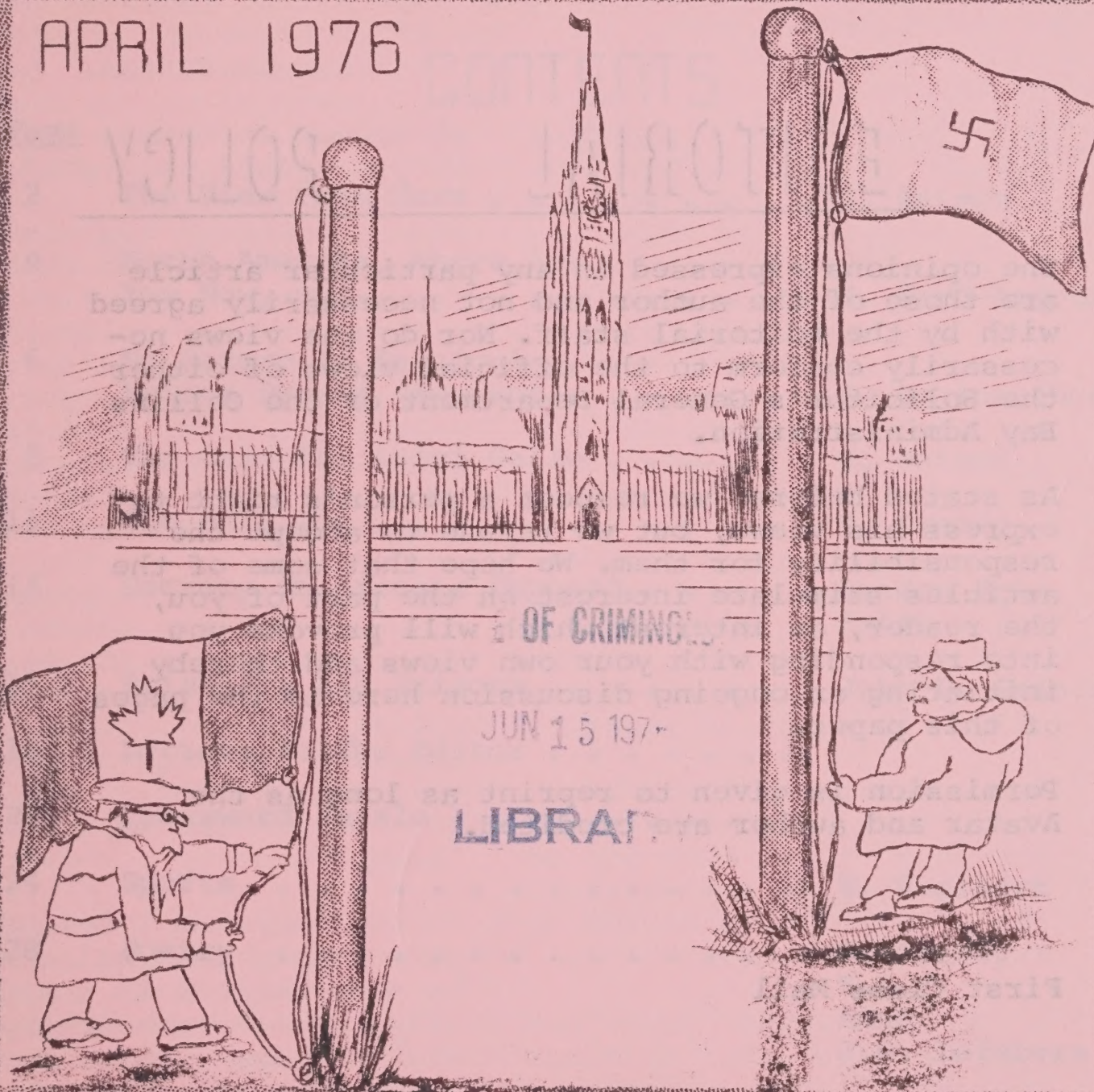


AVATAR

APRIL 1976



KANADA 1976??

Editor George Watson
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EDITORIAL POLICY

The opinions expressed in any particular article are those of the author and not necessarily agreed with by the editorial staff. Nor do the views necessarily conform to the official views of either the Solicitor's General Department or the Collins Bay Administration.

As stated before, we respect a person's right to express his views, but we refuse to accept the responsibility for them. We hope that some of the articles stimulate interest on the part of you, the reader, an interest which will provoke you into responding with your own views and thereby initiating an ongoing discussion here in the pages of this paper.

Permission is given to reprint as long as the Avatar and author are credited.

First Class Mail

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THE VIEW FROM HERE

George Watson

The facade that Canadian prison policy is based on rehabilitation has finally been dropped. It never was prison policy but the public was led to believe that was what was happening. With the introduction of the Peace & Security Bill, not even the red - necks can doubt the fact that prisons are strictly for punishment.

Mr. Allmand admits that the police forces in Canada influenced him with his new policy, but then, to anyone who gives it any thought, Canada is a police state.

Where was the police's concern with Peace and Security when they went out on strike again in Montreal? They went out on strike in New Brunswick too.

A police state does not only effect the criminal element. It is used against the poor and the working man.

Corruption in federal and provincial governments is (2)

so common in Canada that it is practically accepted.

New gun control legislation is a farce and all that it is going to do is allow the government to collect license fees but it also gives the police the right to confiscate guns from their owners. They confiscate ours now, so the legislation is aimed at the "Square John".

New wiretap legislation will allow the police to eavesdrop on anyone. It has been expanded to cover the entire Criminal Code and impaired driving, being a criminal offence, enables any hotel or bar to be "bugged".

In no way am I defending pornography but police raids on news dealers is censorship. After pornography, what do the police decide next that Canadians should not be allowed to read? The RCMP, Quebec Provincial Police and Montreal Police raided a left - wing news-

paper in Montreal without a warrant and reportedly without authorization but that kind of thing happens in police states.

The Montreal police went to schools in Montreal to get the names of teachers who were out on strike. They also smashed a few teachers' heads when the teachers were demonstrating against an oppressive new piece of legislation.

The Toronto police sent out a questionnaire to the public for their views on the subject of capital punishment in order to help their pressure campaign against the abolition of the death penalty. Police forces already practice capital punishment. Stealing a car or breaking into some place isn't a capital offense but the police shoot at anyone who try to escape. Police shot 39 people last year and most of the dead weren't armed criminals.

Remember Joseph Savoy? It was reported that he had just been released from Millhaven and all that, but how many people are aware that a former Toronto cop was charged with murdering Savoy's brother-in-law?

The robbery of Brinks in

Montreal has been called Canada's biggest robbery. It isn't true. The biggest crime in Canada has been pulled by the oil industry.

In Ontario, the government is after women on welfare to go to work. That is one sure way of ensuring that jails will continue to be filled because these womens' children won't have supervision and will end up in training schools - the first step to prison. 90% of all training school children end up in prison!

They are closing hospitals and cutting back on others but, the wealthy will never be denied admittance to a hospital - just the poor.

Statistics Canada reports that of the 2.3 million Canadians over the age of 65, over 50% are poor but the Prime Minister has more important things to consider - he wants to bring home the constitution because as long as we have ties with England, democracy is not completely dead.

When Trudeau went to Cuba, he gave a "Viva Castro". I wonder what Castro said in return. I wonder if it was "Sieg Heil?"

NORTH AMERIKA, WHERE ARE YOU NOW THAT YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS NEED YOU.

Nancy Ward-Armour

JUSTICE...JUSTASS...JUSTUS...
No matter how you spell it,
it still sounds the same.
Okay then, how come it is
applied differently to the
different class systems?
Not so, the educators,
politicians and administ-
rators cry. Bullshit, I re-
tort. Want some "frinstance"
to back up my theory?

(1) A recent member of the
clergy, and past president
of Kingston and the Islands
Progressive Conservative
Association, was sentenced
to two years less a day in
the reformatory for fraud-
ently obtaining more than
\$250,000.00 from trusting
investors. Many of these
investors were senior citi-
zens and this money was
their life savings. They
probably won't get this
bread back. The learned
judge imposed this "heavy"
sentence as a deterrent to
others. What would you and

I get on 13 of these type
of charges? I don't need to
answer that.

(2) Patty Hearst ... Do we
even need to comment? I
will reiterate a message in
a poem by Don Knickerson,
an inmate in the States;
the poem was titled "Ode to
the Electric Chair", the
last two lines tells it all.
"You've gave me the young,
You've gave me the fair,
But, you never gave me a
millionaire!"

Okay, you say, we know all
this, why even bother to
write about it? Words are
history. Even in our small
papers. History is digested
and recorded by our young.
They become tomorrow's
leaders. They can learn
from our mistakes. Changes
and revolutions do not come
overnight. Many injustices
will be inflicted upon the
lower classes for many more

years before they will start screaming. The injustices at Attica, Millhaven, the KP riot, New Westminister, Kent State, the trials of the Chicago Seven, The Swackhammer Report, and the findings of the LeDain Commission.

These will not be forgotten. We must not let them be forgotten. To do so makes us as guilty as the ones who committed the atrocities.

Man must pay for his crimes. Not just those deemed to be criminals by a bourgeoisie society, but all men. The State must also be held to account for its actions. When the State can white-wash itself for its crime against man, it must be removed and replaced.

If any free man, or imprisoned one, is not allowed to speak his mind, or to write his opinion, that is a great crime. Those who try to suppress these freedoms must be in fear of losing an unjust power. If not, why wouldn't they want the people to hear or read both sides to any issue? They obviously have heard that "the pen is mightier than the sword."

+++++

N.B. Nancy Ward-Armour is

the Co-Editor of Tightwire, the prison publication at the Prison for Women. Tightwire is one of the better prison magazines published.

Starting with this issue, we will exchange articles monthly with Tightwire.

Anyone wishing to subscribe to Tightwire can do so by sending \$2.00 for 6 issues to:

Tightwire,
Box 515,
Kingston, Ontario.

In her article, Nancy mentioned the trial of the Chicago Seven. In that case, one of the defendants was bound and gagged in the courtroom on the orders of the judge. In the T. Kennedy case, the court was gagged.

+++++

W O M A N

Woman was made from the rib
of man;
Not from his head to be
moved about;
Not from his leg to be
walked on;
But from his side to be
equal;
Near his arm to be protected;
Close to his heart to be
loved.

No Reform in Farcial Prison System

(This article was written by a social worker who was employed at Dorchester Penitentiary)

Reprint

Stephan Regina-Thon

A task force of the Correctional Consultation branch (CCC) of the Solicitor General's Department in Ottawa has held workshops across Canada seeking suggestions and recommendations for an already bulky preliminary report entitled "The Offender and Ex-Offender as a Correctional Manpower Resource".

This means that the CCC branch of the department is trying to find ways of hiring ex-cons as parole officers, classification staff prison guards, and there is even talk about using cons in assisting police with crime detection and prevention.

On the surface, the idea might seem good. After all, no one knows more about correctional procedure and the special problems involved in being a client of a total institution than

the victims of those institutions. But underlying this supposedly new and enlightened liberal attitude is a frightening insight into the changes and very real damage that has been done to the people placed in prisons, and the emerging fact that after years of being processed by the prisons, those who graduate successfully into outside life are now over - sold on the product of reformed respectability and model behavior. These are the worst people (and always have been) to hire into positions of power over those still entrapped within the system.

In considering the hiring of ex-cons in correctional work, the Solicitor General is revealing that the work to be done is not subject or about to change, and that cons are already familiar enough with the procedures to handle it. To

pretend that those who have already been through the system would have something new to bring to it is patronizing at best; and that they would be expected or allowed to do so is laughable and somewhat frightening.

Any con or ex - con who believes that what is set down for him in prison routines and the treatment accorded him by administrators and guards, is benevolently directed toward him, has already sacrificed his self-esteem (if he ever had any) and his abilities or willingness to determine and guide his own destiny.

It is easy to understand how a man who has been processed by the prisons can come to regard his keepers as working for his own good, but this is nonetheless false. Cons and their keepers share a common ignorance about society and the culture that has created and maintains their respective roles. Those who have gained an insight and awareness into the workings of correctional agencies are usually in too vulnerable a position to work - or even to speak - against its paternalism and author-

itarian repression.

One revealing note at the conference was the fact that even a full pardon carries a paragraph at its conclusion stating that the pardon may be revoked at any time; another is that although there is no written directive against employing ex - cons and cons with the Public Service Commission and the Public Service Alliance (the latter is the guard's union), there are general agreements by these agencies not to hire them, and to date, no ex - con has ever been allowed into the unions. The latter agreement may prove beneficial in the long run. Just as the main topic of the conferences are directed at employment, so too all so-called rehabilitative efforts similarly - and exclusively - are directed away from the convict as an individual or private person. No reforms are made toward ensuring ex-prisoners a viable though harmless and non-threatening, part of the labor force. The important (and unwritten) stipulation ensures that cons remain near the bottom of the wage earners.

(Cont'd next page)

Crime, like mental illness, is a socially and economically defined term. Nobody goes to prison who belongs (or belonged, since court costs are enormous and prohibitive) to a privileged income class. In the rare case of a popular embezzler entering a prison campus, social class and privilege is maintained usually to the point that the man's incarceration is openly regarded as a farce, usually attended by the press with good humour and extremely bad taste. In the official jargon of the Solicitor General's Department, rehabilitation means "returning a man to his former status in the community." That tells you all you need to know. If a man has no status when he enters prison, it is guaranteed him that he keeps that status when he leaves. And since the emphasis of prison policy is supposedly directed toward rehabilitation, not punishment, upon leaving prison most people have even less than when they went in. Cons are neither bondable or insurable; and even if they were, they receive no training in prison that would make it useful for them to be bonded.

In Dorchester penitentiary, (8)

which serves all of the Maritimes and some of the West, a con can go to school but can receive no higher than a grade 10 certificate. And most of the training workshops in the institution have either no instructor or equipment. Even when they do, most of the "skills" taught are useless on the outside.

But what is ironic about the whole situation and especially illuminated by the workshop conferences, is the fact that cons would even want to work in the prisons or for parole, or would even consider the idea of helping police, volunteering helpful suggestions about detecting and deterring crime, especially their attitudes regarding "crime prevention" against young people.

The prisons encourage these "Youth Speaks" since they are sponsored and conducted under the auspices of local and prison chapters of the Jaycees. Parole boards pick up on this, too, as an indication that the con has reformed into the image cast for him by his keepers. But saddest of all, are the men who come to believe what they say at these public confessions. These men

have been worn down into acceptance and submission, deferring to the "better judgement" of their keepers. They come to share the same misguided and malevolent impressions of themselves and their fellows with those that put and maintain them within and behind prison walls under conditions designed only to oppress and punish.

With all that has happened at Dorchester prison alone, coupled with what has happened to inmates at Millhaven, B.C. prison and the 15 suicides at Prince Albert, the Minister's latest announcement of increased spending on already too costly prison security and his refusal to grant public inquiries into prison deaths charges of brutality and corruption - it remains a wonder and a frightening indictment of the penal system, that it has finally conned its cons into wanting to work with the rotting structure toward the ends of their further emasculation and repression.

+ + + + +

He who allows oppression shares the crime.

- Darwin -

THE CASE FOR LUIGI GALLO

Prisoners at Joyceville Institution and Collins Bay have sent petitions to the Solicitor General appealing for the release of 74-year-old Luigi Gallo From Joyceville Institution.

We are now appealing to our outside readers to take ten minutes and write a letter to Mr. Allmand asking for Luigi's release.

Luigi Gallo is 74 years old, crippled and almost blind. His teeth were knocked out in 1973 when he was out on parole and all he can eat (reportedly) is porridge and soup.

Luigi is serving an habitual sentence but he has never committed a crime of violence.

The parole board admits that Luigi is not a member of organized crime, violent or connected with drugs.

Luigi was sentenced to jail in 1953 for breaking and entering and received the habitual sentence which is a life sentence with periodic review. The proceeds of his crime was \$135. (next page)

The parole board says that Luigi is a "risk to society" because he associates with criminals on the street. Who else does he know? He has been in prison most of his life and criminals are the only people he knows - but not quite.

One person doesn't agree with the parole board about Luigi being a "risk". She is 78-year-old Sara Gowan, who has been trying to get him released so that they can spend the rest of their lives together.

Mrs. Gowan, a widow met Luigi in the laundry room of the building where both were living and their friendship developed.

Here is an elderly widow and an old con with a story That Hollywood would have a field day with, but unless someone has a change of heart in Ottawa, the story is going to have an unhappy ending like the one in B.C. where a 74-year-old con died while waiting for his parole.

Bill Prest, a 74-year-old con died in Matsqui prison after serving 28 years in jail. Unlike Luigi, there wasn't anyone who wanted him. Speaking about Luigi's case, (10)

Lawyer Marlys Edwarth was quoted in the Globe and Mail as saying "I feel that continued incarceration represents a real crime on this person."

If society has to be protected from a 74-year-old man who is crippled and partially blind, then they all better just lock their doors and hide under their beds.

So, we ask our outside readers to add their voice to ours and write Mr. Allmand on Luigi's behalf.

G. Watson

+ + + + +

Were beauty under twenty
locks kept fast,
Yet love breaks through,
and picks them all at last.

- Shakespeare -

+ + + + +

I suspect that all the crimes committed by all the criminals in jail do not equal in total social damage that of the crimes committed against them.

- Karl Menninger -

THE BULL PEN

Merv. Gracey

Much has been said and written about one of Toronto's less desirable institutions namely, that house of ill repute, the Don Jail. It is an established fact that conditions at the Don are barbarous to say the least. But there is an offshoot of the Don which is also a running sore in downtown Toronto and which is no less barbarous.

I am referring to that section of the Old City Hall situated directly below Courts 21 and 22 and which is used to hold prisoners from the Don prior to their court appearance. To the Toronto police force, this area is known as the "holding cells" but to the men and boys who have the misfortune to find themselves in the place, it is the "Bull Pen", a filthy, degrading hell-hole which is a damning indictment of Canada's entire penal system, for this particular

root of the Canadian Judicial tree is undoubtedly rotten.

Prisoners arrive at the Bull Pen by means of a shuttle service of police vans, usually beginning around 6 a.m.

As the prisoners arrive, handcuffed in pairs, they are met by a group of elderly and bored looking police officers whose mirror-like pants seat would suggest that retirement is imminent. The prisoners' handcuffs are removed and they are directed to the bull pen by the uniformed "senior citizens."

Manoeuvrability within the pen becomes more and more restricted as the police vans unload their human cargo with watch-like precision every ten minutes.

My first impression of the

Bull Pen was one of shock! I never realized that something like it could exist in the twentieth century. I was almost overcome by the stench of stale urine coming from an open toilet which is situated in the centre of one of the walls in the twenty - by - twenty cage.

Although I was one of the first to arrive from the Don Jail, there were some people already there, they were the drunks picked up by the police and brought to the City Hall cells during the night. They lay sleeping on hard, wooden benches which are placed at intervals around the walls. There were pools of vomit on the floor and benches and on the drunks themselves, testifying to the fact that someone or perhaps all, had been sick during the night.

As more and more prisoners are compressed into the tiny area, the atmosphere becomes one of ever increasing hostility. The drunks are asked to vacate the benches to enable the new arrivals to sit down. Some do so voluntarily, others have to be moved physically.

Among those held are young men who are little more than boys and who group together in corners trying to look older than they really are; there are also the elderly and the sick and injured, some are totally insane; there are the loudmouths and the very frightened.

It is only a matter of time before the arguments start and fist - fights break out due to the cramped conditions. The police are unwilling to enter the pen, perhaps, because they realize that they themselves are directly responsible for the appalling conditions which cause the conflicts.

The solitary toilet is woefully inadequate under the conditions and inevitably, some prisoners are forced to urinate against the wall. This barbaric state of affairs will continue for at least four hours until the prisoners are brought to the various courtrooms.

Most of them will have to return to these conditions the following week, for it would appear that it is in the Toronto lawyers' interests to prolong their

clients agony in order to fatten their generous legal aid paychecks.

I personally had to make at least thirty trips to the bull pen before I finally had a preliminary hearing so I had ample opportunity to observe the conditions there and the incidents cited here are only a tiny sample of the disgraceful and inhuman conditions which exist there.

The City Hall bull pen is a brutal monument to the two-faced hypocrisy of the Can-

adian government, for, at a meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in 1966, the Canadian government added its signature to a covenant on civil and political rights containing certain guarantees and rights for the individual.

Article Ten of that covenant reads:

"All persons deprived of their liberty shall be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person."

Well, Canada?

+ + + + +

+ + + + +

HERE AND THERE

Canada, in its attempt to get its young people away from smoking marijuana lowered the age for drinkers from 21 years old to 18. Now they have a problem with drunken kids.

Despite medical reports that marijuana wasn't harmful, the government has kept it illegal. The real reason is probably because being illegal, the government doesn't collect taxes on the sale of marijuana like it does on alcohol and cigarettes.

Now they have come up with the idea of issuing I.D. cards for youthful drinkers. The reason (supposedly) for this is because youths under 18 are getting drunk.

Youths under 18 are still going to get drunk: just as youths over 18 will continue to do so.

The only change? Well, now the government coffers will have \$2.00 more from each I.D. card sold.

Big brother strikes again!

SECRECY ON ARRESTS OPPOSED BY

LONDON FREE PRESS EDITOR

(Reprint)

William C. Heine, editor of the London Free Press, says Canada will be moving toward a totalitarian police state if the city police commission allows policemen to make arrests in secret.

A proposal by London police which would allow names of persons charged to be withheld until their court appearances, should not be approved by the commission, he said Monday in a speech to a local supper club.

Police officers, like newspaper reporters and editors make mistakes, he said, and the surest way to maintain freedom is to make sure all actions are afforded public scrutiny.

"This isn't a fight between the press and the police... It should be a fight between the police and the public."

Mr. Heine said he does not want to be too dramatic but

there are too many countries where the police are a law unto themselves. Canada's system of law and democracy took centuries to evolve and should not be tampered with lightly, he said.

"I'm not trying to say that the police in London are a bunch of right-wing kooks," he said, "but if someone goes to jail, the public should be made aware of it".

The proposal might seem to make sense because it would prevent a person's name from being bandied about in public, he said, but a closer look puts it in a different perspective.

"How do you prevent people from being held in jail without anybody knowing they are there?"

+ + + + +

Grass is nature's way of saying "High".

PRISONERS AND PRISONS

John David Prince

After reading several books and articles which discuss the effects of imprisonment, the fact becomes more apparent; prisons eventually destroy something in every man or woman. To date, the best article I have read on the subject of the "effects of imprisonment" is by Dr. Corrado DaMelio (1969). In Dr. DaMelio's article, he addressed himself to the multi-faceted problem of imprisonment. These problems were spread along the continuum; (a) the artificiality of the prison environment, (b) influence of the environment upon behaviour, (c) mortification process, (d) survival instincts, (e) inmate social code, (f) hate, (g) uniform- (h) barriers to inmates and guards, (i) negative "transmission", (j) sexual problems and (k) fear. Here are some of his ideas translated by Mauro Rocco, Peter Casa and myself.

The prison is a little city

of lost people according to Dr. DaMelio. In this little city there are the people who failed to live according to the values and customs of the society from which they came. These people are, Dr. Damelio states: crushed (Vanier '72) disorganized, egocentric, liars, without moral judgement and severely wounded. Among these poor wretched souls, there are many good men, some who are victims of society.

The arrival of the offender to prison demands that he or she accept the realities of the environment; some fit into the prison, others just absorb the environment, and lose their very being. Very few people rise above the stench of the prison, in fact, for those who do, they escape the "death of their spirit". When the offender is a "first timer", the individual suffers the trauma of imprisonment. He

is subject to emotional influence, and is disoriented, frightened, remorseful and resigned to his prison term. When the experience of imprisonment is felt, the inmate feels hurt, agitated, hysterical, violent against himself and others, including objects (vandalism). He is surrounded by insensitivity, with people who only add to his anguish; people who expound philosophies of humanity, but who in fact are only interested in collecting a paycheck, and leaving their job in the evening concerned only with the knowledge that all the inmates are contained in their cells.

Some inmates can make friends quickly. Others cannot adjust. Some withdraw. Most have a need for companionship so gravitate towards people who will meet their needs. These needs could be as simple as safety in numbers or someone to share the expression of intellectual concepts. For a great many others, there is the pained expression of loneliness. It is in this weakness that inmates gather in cliques and groups and here is where it is possible for negative

values to be transmitted, rather than positive ones. The inmates are continuously surrounded by negativeness and artificiality, so that their energies are often sapped just coping with these feelings (Schachter, 1969) and consequently, the "rejected reject the rejectors." The inmate finds that his opinions are not given any notice. He becomes a non-person in the system. He fears others, including the people he loves. Within this environment, hostility and frustration builds and the inmates begin to contemplate means of being recognized as individuals or as a group. There are riots, fights, suicides, escapes, and minor acts such as swearing, kicking objects and sarcastic replies to guards and inmates. Within this atmosphere of tension, fear, hostility, cynicism, resentment, anger, bitterness and anguish, the inmate attempts to survive. How does he do it?

Dr. DaMelio suggests that inmates use a variety of methods to escape the suffering of imprisonment. They alter their clothing, fix up their cell, become involved in many activities

e.g. work, groups, school courses, sports, reading, watching TV and entering into homosexual relationships. He claims that the inmate reduces guards to non-persons and refuses to accept anything they have to say. The mass of individuals attempt to meet their own needs within a "closed environment" by designing a schematic that will reduce the pain of rejection. This attempt at survival only serves to reinforce the inmates opinion of the prisons and they are frustrated even more; the circle of hate is a physical law.

The institution makes no effort to gain the trust of the inmate and assist them in their need to believe in the system. The inmate is left wondering who, and what to believe in. Since the system appears not to concern itself with the inmate, the inmate uses many guiles and manipulations to attract attention to their need; the need for freedom, friendship, love, responsibility and comfort. These attention-seeking activities are frowned upon and the inmate is labelled. Simple systems of labelling are arranged. The inmate is

dangerous, manipulative, stupid, intelligent and these typologies become the ones by which the inmates are classified and controlled, rather than by the inmate's abilities and potential. Social control within a prison is the purpose of security. The inmates are to be kept under control. Since this is the case, the likelihood of a correctional setting rehabilitating anyone is not possible. Security is not related to freedom, growth and change.

Inmates are reformed because of their own efforts, and perhaps, because of a few breaks. Sometimes, it is a break that is the deciding factor, rather than treatment, that helps a prisoner return safely to society.

+ + + + +

GUN CONTROL?????

A woman complained to the police in Alexandria, Ont. because a policeman fired shots at a speeding car carrying 5 teen-agers. It wasn't a stolen car - just a speeding one.

The excuse given by the cop doing the chasing for firing his gun was: "to knock the snow off the license plates!"

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor:

I am replying to the article on half-way houses, "The Exploiters". I must answer because I am an ex-con and because I work for St. Leonard's in Brampton.

Before I go any further, I want to tell you that I am not speaking for anyone but myself. I cannot take it upon myself to tell you where other people are at but I can say that I am not the only one who is in this type of work for the right reason.

What amazes me is the fact that no-where in your article did you mention the fact that there are a lot of guys who have made it, are making it, and will make it in the future because of being in a setting where there are always people around that they can talk to. Or people around that are going through the same thing they are, so therefore never have to be alone in their struggle to find some meaning in their life.

It also disturbs me that you think yourself to be an authority on all half-way houses and all the staff that run them, when in reality, you have no doubt only spoken to the odd guy who messed up so therefore put himself back in.

The house I work at is a Day Parole Centre and since I started working there (6 months ago) 2 guys have been sent back. One guy was charged with B & E and convicted and the other guy came into the house with an axe and tried to do in some of the residents. Who is harming who in that situation?

You say that obeying house rules is reasonable, but you can't understand why he must attend "counselling"

sessions" and have the house director and counsellors pry into his personal life. How the hell do you help someone without taking an interest in them? How do you find out who they are and what they need without asking? What would you say if you heard that once a person was released no-one cared enough to try and make sure he stayed out there?

As for the money that is received for each inmate per day, all I can say is that these houses are expensive to run and even though the guys are also asked to pay rent, it still cuts it close because a lot of guys don't start working right away so therefore aren't paying anything. Twenty-five dollars a week for room and board is pretty good anyway. Where else can you live that cheaply these days? I make \$106.00 a week clear and believe me there isn't much left over after paying for rent, food and transportation. There's nobility and practicality. Why aren't both allowed?

All I'm interested in is helping to keep people out of jail. I want to make sure that no-one has to go through what I did and for as long as I did, before they are able to find the happiness that we all have the right to. I dare you or anyone else to find evidence to support your allegations that all ex-cons should stay out of half-way house work because ex-cons don't need a reminder of jail. We all need a reminder once in a while of what a degrading painful experience jail can be. If we forget then we lose the fear of going back. The only things we should forget is the hate and bitterness and I can assure you that I don't encourage anyone to remember that or hang on to it.

True, some ex-cons would throw people back in jail, and true, some ex-correctional staff would do the same without hesitation, but it's also true that people who have no understanding of what it's like to go through an experience like that are sometimes prone to throwing someone back in even faster. There is good and bad in anything but whether you like to admit it or not, you are damaging a lot of people by saying that they are all bad. You are doing what we hate "society" to do to us, "generalizing".

(Continued on page 36)

ACROSS

1. Persian rulers
6. Branches
10. Door member
14. Wore
(2 words)
15. Ireland
16. Above
German
17. Raise the spirits
18. Birds
19. Study carefully
20. Colorless
oily liquid
22. Makes up
one's mind
24. Mountain
nymph
26. Most attractive
27. Lip irritation
(2 words)
30. Process
Suffix
31. Vis - ---
Face to face
32. Pork cut
37. Clerical abbr.
38. Comes to a
standstill
40. Capacity
unit Abbr.
41. Triumphed
43. Pine fruit
44. Fortify
45. Walked unsteadily
48. Coins
51. Oversight
52. Certain lyric poems
54. Theatre employees
58. Seaweed
59. Imprint clearly
61. Popular toast

62. Narrate
63. London
district
64. Diacritical
mark
65. Needle
openings
66. Make a sputtering
noise
67. Speak derisively

DOWN

1. Females
slang
2. Cease moving
3. What ----I
4. Certain autos
5. Scornful
expressions
6. Verbal
repetition
7. Part of "to be"
8. Care about
9. Shaky
10. Planet
11. Dwelling
12. Small Lakes
13. French seaport
21. New type
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23. Healed
25. Lessen in quantity
27. Fish
28. Above
29. Reside
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ARTICLES: POEMS:

JOKES: ETC.

WANTED!

The AVATAR is a prisoner's publication and is a medium for inmates and interested people on the outside to air their views.

Inmates wanting to contribute to the Avatar can drop their material in the Avatar box on the strip.

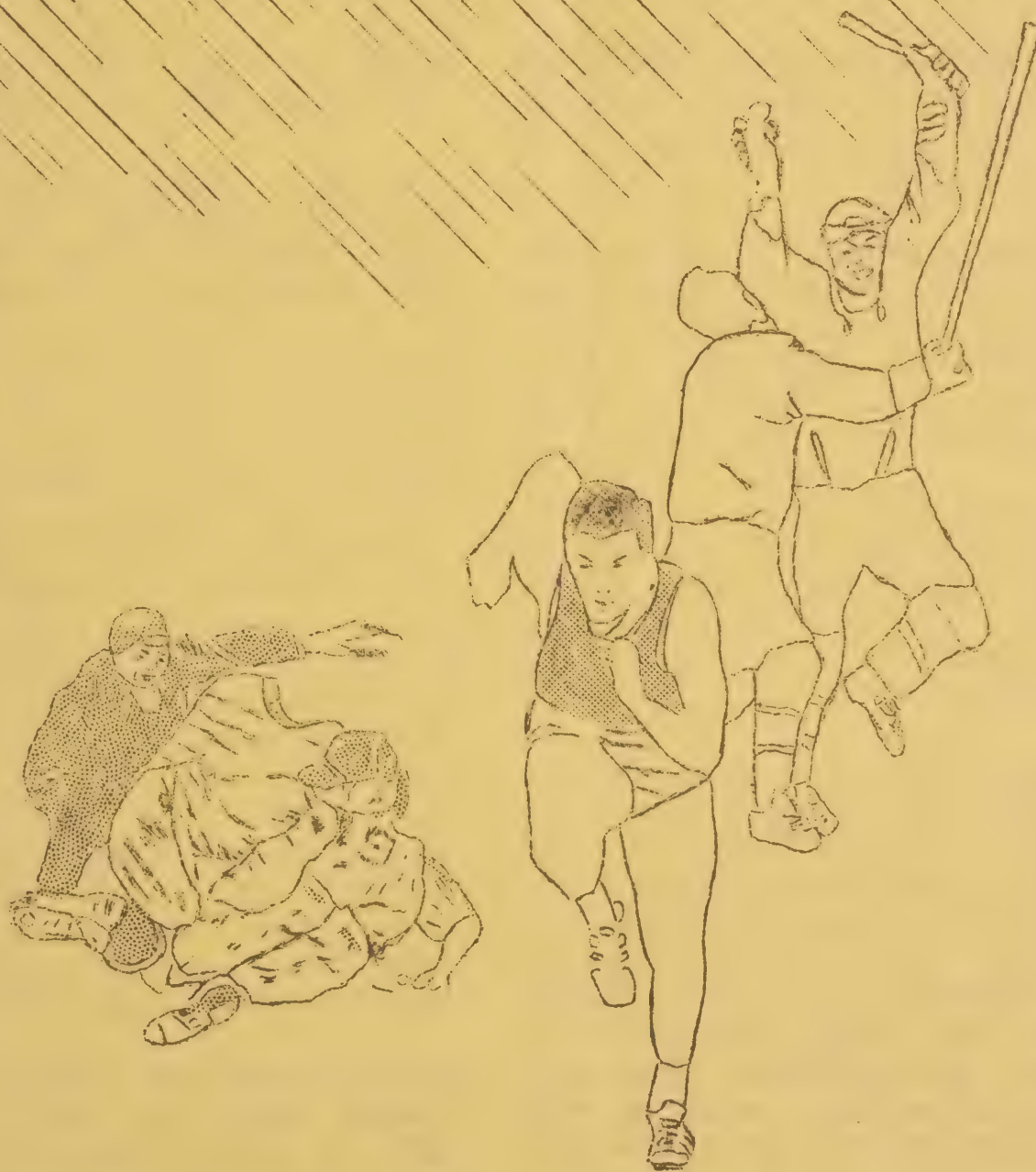
We need "feedback" in order to know what people like or dislike about the magazine.

Subscribers are invited to send material for printing. We would also like their opinions on the magazine.

Send your letters to:

The Editor, Avatar,
P.O. Box 190, Kingston, Ontario.

SPORTS



FLOOR HOCKEY WRAP-UP

Wayne Hurlburt

Roy McMurtry would have had a field day at the Collins Bay floor hockey play-offs last month.

A broken nose, a broken ankle, a broken jaw, one broken wrist and a mild concussion was the final tally. All that and good floor hockey too.

The Red and Green teams met in the semi-finals and they went the full five games before the Red team emerged as winners in the dramatic fifth game.

Leading the Red team in the offense department were Bob Young, the league's top scorer and Paul Harper, the league's Most Gentlemanly Player and Bob Garneau. Defenseman of the Year, Rick Mallory, turned in a steady performance throughout the series, much to the delight of his goalie - me.

Standouts for the Green

team included Dave Thurston, John Cadeddu and Don Ellis.

The Blue team, after capturing first place, sat back on the sidelines waiting for the winner of the semi-final.

The first game of the finals was one of the best played and most exciting games of the year but it was costly for the Red team. Paul Harper, one of the Red teams most valuable players was lost for the balance of the playoffs when he suffered a mild concussion while scoring the winning goal.

Rick Mallory, a defensive standout all year was transferred and added injuries left the Red team hurting but they gave it all they had - which wasn't enough.

Gary Blacklock led the Blue teams offence and Gary Barnes stabilized the hard-hitting defence. Add to them, the likes of Joe Gagne

Leo Smith, Ron Tweedale and the goaltending of Bobby Lamoureux and it is easy to understand why the Blue team won the next four games and the championship.

Congratulations go to Donny DeRosie, the manager of the Blue team and all his players on their victory.

Thanks also to John Dodge and John Wesley who provided more than adequate refereeing.

SAINTS WIN EXHIBITION

The Saints defeated Knox Well-Drillers from Glenburnie in an exhibition fastball game by the score of 6 to 5.

Robbie Robinson was the hero of the game when he hit a 2-run homer in the bottom of the seventh inning to win the game.

Pitcher Leo Smith struck out 12 batters while limiting the Well-Drillers to 7 hits.

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TOP TEN SCORERS FLOOR HOCKEY PLAY-OFFS

<u>Player</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Goals</u>	<u>Assists</u>	<u>Pts</u>
B. Young	Red	38	25	63
G. Blacklock	Blue	31	11	42
B. Garneau	Red	13	20	33
L. Smith	Blue	12	14	26
P. Harper	Red	15	8	23
J. Atkinson	Red	13	6	19
G. Barnes	Blue	6	12	18
J. Gagne	Blue	11	5	16
E. George	Green	11	4	15
S. Massie	Red	10	5	15

Because the Blue team received a bye in the first round of the play-offs, the Red and Green teams played more games.

CIRCLE FASTBALL LEAGUE

SAINTS 1978 SCHEDULE

MAY

10	Saints vs Coffee Plus
13	Eastern Welders vs Saints
17	Saints vs Plane's Concrete
20	Lakeview Manor vs Saints
25	Saints vs Portsmouth House Olympics
27	Saints vs Eastern Welders
31	Plane's Concrete vs Saints

JUNE

3	Saints vs Lakeview Manor
7	Coffee Plus vs Saints
10	Saints vs Portsmouth House Olympics
14	Saints vs Coffee Plus
17	Eastern Welders vs Saints
21	Saints vs Plane's Concrete
24	Lakeview Manor vs Saints
28	Portsmouth House Olympics vs Saints

JULY

5 Plane's Concrete vs Saints

8 Saints vs Lakeview Manor

JULY

12 Coffee Plus vs Saints
15 Saints vs Portsmouth House Olympics
19 Saints vs Coffee Plus
22 Eastern Welders vs Saints
26 Saints vs Plane's Concrete
29 Lakeview Manor vs Saints

AUG

3 Saints vs Eastern Welders
5 Portsmouth House Olympics vs Saints

N.B. Schedule is subject to change.

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SAINTS LOSE OPENER 3-1

The Collins Bay Saints were defeated by Coffee Plus May 10, in the League opener by the score of 3-1.

Third baseman Buddy Stewart of Coffee Plus was a standout both offensively and defensively. He hit 2 homeruns, the last one coming in the bottom of the seventh inning with a man on first base. He also made a couple of sparkling defensive plays at third base.

Winning pitcher Fred Leduc limited the Saints to three hits while walking six batters and striking out one.

Losing pitcher Teddy Woods only gave up three hits, walked one and struck out five batters.

Both of Stewart's homeruns resulted from "bad hops" over the left fielder's shoulder. The winners left only two runners on base while the Saints stranded nine.

THE FLAG

Play no lament o'er Ireland's flag,
Nor songs of Celtic Honour.
The silk that once we waved with pride,
Is now a tainted banner.

A shield for pseudo-patriots,
A license for their game,
The key to open genocide,
The seal on Ireland's shame.

Merv. Gracey

"MY SORROWS"

the high-flying hipsters,
hooked on chemical dreams
pursuing their fantasies
down garbage can alleys.

rocking along in rhythm
down subway tunnels
and empty corridors
of well forgotten ways.

lost amidst the smiles and laughter
comes the cry of desolation
from the ~~very~~ souls of pity
to the quiet house of riches.

they are smiling at our sorrows
from the pillar of our bones
and they rake among the flowers
and among the garbage of our minds.

while the drops of blood are dripping
from the hands that plucked them cruelly
and our cries become faint echoes
down the halls of rags and riches.

K. L.

M A U R E E N

She moves through the streets
With her head held high,
And a winsome smile,
For each passer-by.
With her streaming hair
And her silken sheen,
She's the glint of gold,
On Ireland's green.
She's the belle of Belfast City,
The girl with the raven hair
As fresh as a breeze in Springtime,
As gay as a summer fair.

Merv. Gracey

FOR YOU DARLING,
WITH LOVE

Sometimes there are moments
When I'm feeling kind of blue,
And you touch me,
And hold me,
And the sun comes shining through.
And I know, that all I'll ever need,
In this old world,
Is you.

Anon.

A MOOD

The wounds are healed,
The images fade with
the years,
Yet not so the pain
The bell of life lies
cracked and silent.
Winter almost ended,
Yet just beginning.
All seasons the same,
Where now the great
Physician - time?

Merv. Gracey

DREAM OF A DREAM

I laid on my bed, closed my eyes,
To sleep, to dream of the veins to be fed,
then, of the rush,
that goes to the head.

I walked quietly along the main drag,
To see who was tripping around,
In two hours, I was cranked and on the floor,
I was found,
thrown in a cold shower and
slapped across the face.

I came to life, slowly feeling the power
through my body,
I felt that surge,
I woke up smiling, yet, feeling blue,
For after all, it was only a dream.

I'm in my cell serving my sentence,
Too bad the dream wasn't what it seemed.

Jacques G. Lefebvre



JOKE



PAGE

A young mother who really doesn't like to drink told her hostess at a cocktail party: "Just give me a child's portion of bourbon".

One little girl arrived at a boy's birthday party carrying a note: "Please send Shelly home when you get tired of her, or at 1:20 p.m., whichever comes first."

Mrs. Billy Graham told an audience of women last year "God has not always answered my prayers. If he had, I would have married the wrong man - several times."

Boss: "You know our beautiful stenographer, Margo?"

Assistant: "Yes sir."

Boss: "Have you ever taken her out? Made a pass at her? Written a love note to her? Called her up?"

Assistant: "No, sir."

Boss: "Good. Then you can be the one to fire her."

+ + + + +

His wife had been nagging him for years to buy her a fur coat. Finally, he told her, "Look, if you keep nagging me for a coat much more you'll get me mad and bring out the beast in me."

"Oh, that's all right," she answered. "We've got a mouse trap around some place."

A husband was out with the boys one evening, and before he realized it, the morning of the next day had dawned. He hesitated to call home, but finally hit upon an idea. He rang his house, and when his wife answered the phone, he shouted: "D'ont pay the ransom, honey. I've escaped!"

"We want a responsible man for this job," said the employer to the applicant.

"Well," said the young fellow, "I guess I'm your fellow. No matter where I worked, whenever anything happened, they always said I was responsible."

+ + + +

A resort used by a large Christian denomination for its church conferences has as its motto: "There are no problems, only opportunities." Therefore, when a male guest presented himself at the hotel desk and stated he had a problem, the desk clerk responded with a smile, "Sir, here we do not have problems, only opportunities." "Call it what you like," said the guest, "but there is a woman in my room."

A four-year-old boy was sitting with his grandmother in church one Communion Sunday. Fascinated by the bread and wine being passed along the pews, he wanted to partake as well. Rather than try to make him understand why he couldn't participate in the ceremony Grandma allowed him to take a tiny glass of wine. Elated, he turned to his neighbour, raised his glass in a salute, and cried out, "Cheers!"

Panhandler: "Actually, I'm an author. I wrote a book, "One Hundred Ways To Earn Money":

Businessman: "Then why beg?"

Panhandler: "It's one of the ways."

In the presence of a client he wished to impress, a high - powered executive flipped on his intercom switch and barked to his secretary, "Miss Thompson, get my broker!"

The visitor was duly impressed until the secretary's voice floated back into the room, loud and clear: "Yes, sir. Will that be stock or pawn?"

At the end of his first day at school a rowdy six-year-old boy went running home and burst through the door shouting: "Mom, Mom: Guess what? They want me back!"

Another six-year-old boy on being asked how he liked his first day at school, replied. "All right - except there was some lady there that talked all the time."

Comedian Dick Lord says that when he first met his wife, she was a school teacher.

"I used to write her passionate love letters - and she'd send them back corrected. I must be the only man in the world who returned from his honeymoon and received a report card. It said: Dick is neat and friendly and shows a keen interest in fun and games."

(Letters - continued from page 19)

There are a few of us out here who are trying to keep guys out of jail, who are trying to fight the new Peace and Security Bill and Capital Punishment and who are very involved in prison reform. We are trying to make things better. I am using my experience to help keep people out of jail.

What are you doing, my friend?

Brampton, Ontario.

Vicki Jackson - counsellor

+ + + + +

Editor:

I agree fully with your article "The Exploiters." I was paroled to St. Leonard's in Windsor as part of a project and after I was there, the director told me quote: "I told the parole board if I catch you drinking, I'll drive you back to the pen myself."

I am 52 years of age and hadn't worked at a job since 1950. In fact, I only worked for about 9 months in my whole life, but when I went to Windsor, I worked steady and for the first time in my life, I banked some money.

A counsellor at Windsor reported to the director that I had been drinking and the director informed the parole service. I was taken to the parole office and was told, "there is no proof but we are going on the assumption that you were drinking." I was given a warning.

The second report from St. Leonard's resulted in my being returned to the penitentiary.

I never committed any crime or caused any disturbance whatsoever in the house. I never missed a days work and my boss wants me back but here I am in prison because I was reported by St. Leonard's to the parole service for drinking.

As for counselling sessions, I had to sit with the director and other inmates in the house and listen to them decide whether I should be forced to take anti-buse. The

majority decision was that I shouldn't have to take it but the director, unhappy with the decision, called another meeting the next morning without me being present. At the meeting was the director, 2 ex-cons and my parole officer. After the second meeting, I was informed by my P.O. that I would have to take anti-buse.

There was also a book where the counsellor on duty made written reports on acts, moods and his assumed idea of the residents attitude, e.g. "Midge seemed very moody tonight". "Midge seemed withdrawn tonight", etc. Every action and mood of the residents was reported in the book. The director bases his reports to the parole service on these written reports.

Midge Pallister

+ + + + + + + + + +

Editor:

Your article titled "The Exploiters", which appeared in the February issue of Avatar, certainly does give your "view from here" for I sincerely question your credibility in reporting on half-way houses if you haven't lived in one within the past few years. I cannot speak for all houses, but as a counsellor at the Croyn Centre, St. Leonard's House, London, Ontario, I feel it is necessary to set you straight on several of your statements.

You begin by informing the reader that many released prisoners are 'forced' to spend months in a halfway house. This is entirely false. An inmate applies for admission to St. Leonard's House. He is by no means forced to live there. I do agree that the inmate's consent to go to a halfway house is probably looked upon with favor by the Parole board, but this is not evidence of forced residency in a halfway house. An inmate should only apply to St. Leonard's if he truly wants to. An application to this house means that the released inmate wants to try to clean up his act with our help, and at the same time abide by the rules set down by St. Leonard's and his parole officer. If an inmate perhaps pretends that he wants to go straight by living in a halfway house but instead treats it like a hotel,

then, really I must ask you, who is exploiting who? There are people who truly want and need St. Leonard's and I don't want to work with anyone who doesn't want to be here. What is the point in trying to help disinterested people? If you don't want to come here, then I pray you don't, because I don't want you either.

Since you are so good at spouting numbers, I'd like to throw a few back at you. I suppose the \$14,000 that is spent to keep one inmate in prison for a year is peanuts, eh George? That really makes me sick! We get \$54,750 per year (\$15. a day per resident) for a maximum of ten bed spaces at the Cody Centre and \$59,130. per year (\$10.80 a day per resident) for a maximum of fifteen bed spaces at the Croyn Centre. Assuming that we maintain the maximum occupancy of 25 residents at both houses, then we receive a total of \$113,880 per year from the government. That sounds like a healthy sum, but the operating cost of both houses last year was \$135,000. leaving us short \$21,120. We are forced to raise anywhere from 16 to 20% of the total operating costs ourselves. That is why we rely on donations and rent money received from residents. People pay rent everywhere so why shouldn't residents of halfway houses? I might also add that most residents don't even pay rent because they are students or unemployed.

The next area where you clearly demonstrated that you don't know what you are talking about is halfway house staff members. Your stupid little jab at the director of St. Leonard's in Windsor amounts to absolutely nothing. No counsellor has the power to send a man back to prison. We just don't have the authority or the responsibility whether the resident broke a criminal law, a house rule, or violated his parole regulations. It's out of our hands, and this power rests with resident's parole officer, the police or the courts. I also find you 'contemptible' (your own word) for even suggesting that I in any way resemble a police officer out of uniform. You seem to be the one trying to pull uncalled for heavies in this situation.

I noticed that the Assistant Director of St. Leonard's House in London wasn't mentioned in your attack on ex-con

halfway house staff. Was he neglected because he isn't "Napoleonic" or because you think he is a "good guy"? I wonder. The main thing I learned from your article was that Mr. G. Watson seems to be paranoid about anything that moves (e.g. police, classification officers, psychologists, guards, ex-con halfway house workers and even plain un-ex-con counsellors like me).

Obviously, you don't know the meaning of the word "help". It's true that house meetings are compulsory and we have these to help the residents. Anything mentioned in these meetings, whether it is a confession to a recent crime or whatever, cannot be taken outside the meeting. This means that if a guy says he pulled a B & E, we aren't going to go running to the police or his P.O. Why should we?

The house in Hull, Quebec, sounds as if they have a good thing going by providing work for the guys. If what you say about them being paid less than minimum wage is true, (Ed Note: \$51. for a 40-hour week) then I wonder what little details you neglected to mention. (1). Do the upholstery workers have to pay rent? (2). Is the shop run by the halfway house? (3). Are these workers experienced in upholstering, or are they learning the trade? therefore, receiving only apprentice or training wages? (4). Do you know how little I am paid?

London, Ont.

Ms. Lorna Graham - counsellor

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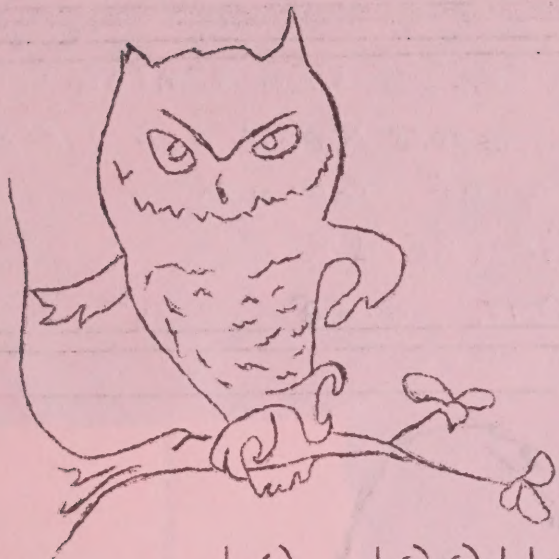
A few points:

(1) Both of these letters from the outside were from staff members of St. Leonard's. Prison staff members also say that inmates are treated well in all of our prisons. Notable by their absence were any letters from residents refuting the article. Both of these women apparently have a reading problem. I never wrote residents should't pay rent. I said when it is learned that the government pays \$375. a month and the resident \$100., any image of nobility fades. As for my "stupid little jab", what does Ms Graham call it what happened to Midge & others? She plays on words too. If an inmate is told by the parole board, go to a halfway

house or remain in jail - isn't that 'forced'? Or would Ms Graham prefer the word 'coerced'? It makes Ms Graham sick because the government spends \$14,000 a year to keep us in jail, but it doesn't make her sick when the same government pays money to organizations when we are supposedly 'free'. (5) Who is she trying to kid about inmates confessing to B&E's and not being reported? A person believing that must believe in the Easter Bunny too. (6) Ms Graham has me paranoid about all correctional staff, etc. Anyone who was employed at Millhaven and collected their pay and kept their mouth shut about the brutality there, is as guilty as the perpetrators. If believing that is being paranoid, then I'm paranoid. (7) It is true that I didn't point out the 'good' things about St. Leonard's, just as in the same manner that St. Leonard's doesn't point out the 'bad' things in their Newsletter. (8) Ms Jackson contradicts Ms Graham and they are both counsellors. (9) If three inmates are paroled to a city and rent an apartment together, they will be returned to prison for 'association', but they can live in St. Leonard's which has some ex-cons 'counselling'. Where did the ex-con counsellors get the white-wash brushes to become so pure? (10) I am not an 'authority' or 'expert' on halfway houses but when I hear more than one story from men returned to jail for reasons other than breaking the law, I believe the other side of the story should be told, the same way I am allowing Ms Jackson and Graham to do by printing their letters. (11) Besides calling me paranoid and contemptible, Ms Graham concluded her letter by calling me a 'turkey'. She could be right, but one thing I never have, or never will do, is exploit cons or ex-cons which is more than Ms Graham can say. (12) There were other letters from cons at Collins Bay backing up my article, including one from an ex-counsellor but enough space has been used. I wonder if St. Leonard's Newsletter allows space for any critical letters?

The motto on St. Leonard's envelopes says: Let All Guests Be Received As Christ'. I wonder if that means 'crucify them'.

Finally, if Ms Graham wants to read favourable remarks on police forces, it is recommended that she read the Toronto Sun; if she wants to read favourable remarks on prison personnel, she can read Discussion Magazine. We print the truth.



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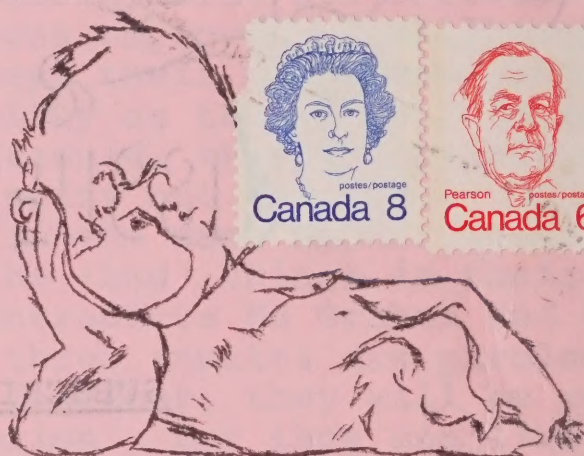
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THINK
ABOUT IT



Where else, but prison.

Would they paint a
corridor before digging
up the floor?

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